



The O3 Flex Agreement and the Early Action Compact

The Austin/San Marcos MSA Experience

October 11, 2002



The O3 Flex and the EAC

- Voluntary legally-binding emission reduction agreements
 - O3 Flex addresses 1-hour ozone standard
 - EAC addresses 8-hour ozone standard
- Clean air sooner than otherwise required
- Emphasize local control and flexibility
- Defer nonattainment designation date



Current Status

- Austin/San Marcos MSA Planning Area
 - 5 counties, 7 cities
- O3 Flex Agreement signed 3/28/02
 - First reporting period ended 8/31/02
- Proposed EAC currently being considered by local elected officials



Challenges

- Voluntary, so no clear guidance
- Local control means local decisions
- New planning effort – learning curve
- Data and methodologies
- Short timelines
- Coordination



Enabling Factors

- Near nonattainment area legislative riders
 - Fund emission inventories, modeling, technical studies, some public education
- Existing air quality planning structure
 - Support and implement rider activities
 - Non-profit clean air advocacy group



Regional AQ Planning Structure

- Capital Area Planning Council (CAPCO)
 - Administer rider funding, umbrella group
- Clean Air Coalition (CAC)
 - Elected officials – 5 counties, 7 cities
 - Technical Advisory Committee (CACTAC)
 - Develop draft plans and agreements
- CLEAN Air Force (CAF) non-profit
 - Public education, voluntary programs



Identify the Players

- Determine the planning area (MSA)
- Determine the minimum signatories
 - County and most populous city in county
- Identify participating entities
 - Transportation – MPO, DOT, transit agency
 - Electric Utilities, Airport
 - COG, State Air Agency
 - Environmental Advocacy Groups
 - Chamber of Commerce



O3 Flex Planning Process

- Determine general scope of agreement
 - Minimal reductions needed for 1-hour attainment through 2007
 - Target reductions from government
 - Voluntary reductions from business
 - Do not require reductions from the general public, encourage voluntary reductions



O3 Flex Planning Process

- Develop 2007 baseline
 - Emission inventory and photochemical model
 - Include applicable federal and state measures
- Evaluate emission source contributions
 - On-road mobile dominant, few point sources
 - Construction is dominant non-road source



O3 Flex Planning Process

- Identify emission reduction strategies
 - Ongoing or planned and not in baseline
 - Potential based on source contribution
- Develop menu of reduction strategies
 - Assign points based on effectiveness
 - High, medium, low
 - Include low cost measures in each category
 - NOx reductions rated higher than VOC



O3 Flex Planning Process

- Determine target for local signatories
 - County and city emission contributions
 - Determine percent of total emissions by county
 - City emissions based on population w/in county
- Reductions proportionate to contribution
 - Reflect total emissions distribution
 - Assign points needed to reach each target
 - Minimum point target for small contributors
 - Rural counties, small cities



O3 Flex Planning Process

- Ask signatories to commit to strategies to meet their reduction target
 - Select from strategies on the menu
 - All met target, most exceeded target
- Identify strategies of participating entities
 - Power plants, airport
 - Transportation projects, transit initiatives
 - Clean Air Partners private sector initiative
 - CAF, Chamber of Commerce initiative



O3 Flex Strategies

- Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
 - Car/vanpool, telework, compressed work week, direct deposit, e-government, mixed/use or transit oriented development
 - Clean Air Partners
- Reduce transportation emissions
 - Alternative or clean fuels, clean vehicles (ULEV or better)



O3 Flex Strategies

- Reduce transportation emissions
 - Refuel in the evenings (shift reduces ozone)
 - Five minute diesel idling limit
 - Transportation projects
 - Signal synchronizations, bike/ped facilities, intersection improvements, park n ride facilities, grade separations, traffic flow improvements, intelligent transportation systems
 - Lower sulfur gas



O3 Flex Strategies

- Miscellaneous
 - Power plants
 - Airport Clean Air Plan
 - Low emitting asphalt and striping material
 - Low emission gas cans
 - Tree planting
 - Resource conservation
 - Ozone Action Day Response Programs
 - Public Education Programs



Quantify Reductions

- Define process
 - CAPCO – data collection, consultant contract
 - CAMPO – quantify transportation strategies
- Collect needed data and methodologies
 - Difficult – most data not typically retained
 - Developed data collection form for all strategies on the menu (plain English)



Public Involvement & Education

- Printed briefing book and flyers
 - Problem, process and possible solutions
- Websites and CAF phone lines
- CAF Public Education Campaign
 - Radio, print, billboards, events, bill stuffers
 - Ozone Action Day Program
- Presentations
- Bus Wraps, free rides on OZADs



Draft the O3 Flex Agreement

- Worker Bee Committee
 - Split up workload by section for initial draft
 - Edit and revise by committee
 - One keeper of the document
- Comments from TCEQ, EPA, CACTAC
 - Recommend two comment periods



O3 Flex Approval Process

- Initial approval by CAC
- CAC representatives take to respective jurisdictions to endorse by resolution
- Final signing by CAC representatives, TCEQ and EPA Region 6



O3 Flex Reporting Process

- Every 6 months, quantify once a year
- Track implementation status and results
- Developed electronic reporting form
 - Customized for each entity
 - Separate report for business, transportation projects
- Process coordinated by CAPCO
- Results compiled, report sent to TCEQ and EPA Region 6



O3 Flex – Lessons Learned

- Build some slack into your timeline – it will take you longer than you think
- Define roles and expectations up front
- Be as inclusive as possible – a place at the table encourages participation
- Coordination and consistency are key



EAC Process

- Same general approach as O3 Flex
- More emphasis on stakeholder and public involvement, education
 - Strategies may directly impact them
 - Designing process now
- More emphasis on modeling results
 - Model strategies, determine best combination to maintain attainment



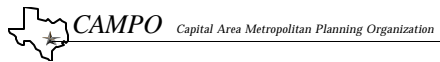
EAC Concerns

- Short timeline
 - Quick action, good coordination needed
- Must proceed without EPA's 8-hour implementation guidance
 - 8-hour nonattainment comparison difficult
 - Draft guidance subject to change (modeling)



EAC Current Status

- Proposed EAC MOA under consideration
 - Jurisdictions endorse by end of December
 - Sign MOA by December 31
- Emission inventory, modeling underway
 - Just incorporated MOBILE6
 - Overall reduction target soon
- Start stakeholder, public process after MOA signed



THANK YOU!

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